

A.R. Weber
Interview 54b
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ABSTRACT: In this interview with Becky Bailey, A.R. Weber reminisces about his involvement in various community activities in Diboll. He discusses the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Lions Club, and the various committees of the Methodist Church.

I'm interviewing Mr. Weber at his home. Today's date is April 11, 1985. My name is Becky Bailey. Present also is Alan Bailey and Mrs. Weber.

A.R. Weber (hereafter AW): Okay I am going to show you a picture of Skeet members – well, they were members of the Skeet Club watching some of the Skeet shooters, way back, I don't know when that was, but apparently it was in the '40s.

Becky Bailey (hereafter BB): Okay.

AW: You ask whether it was a Skeet Club. We were presented with a skeet trap and a company gave us some of the ground where the city park now is.

BB: The one across 59?

AW: The one across the creek where they hold – that club was somewhere near where the restrooms are now.

BB: Oh, okay.

AW: And the pecan trees were all around it and they had a high tower and a low tower. Now before that club was formed I was making trips – making a trip to my home – my mother's home in Michigan and I was delegated to investigate the Skeet Clubs throughout the country on my way north. And I made about six or eight different trips through Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan and I believe some up in Arkansas and in Missouri and I made sketches of the layout of the skeet clubs and one in particular in Indiana, up near Valparaiso. I stopped and it was a lighted Skeet Club – I never have seen or heard of a night Skeet Club.

BB: No.

AW: But this club was lighted like a baseball field is now. Of course, they didn't have all those fancy lights but it was lighted.

BB: That is something, isn't it?

AW: This was apparently built for business people because it was laid out with the – like a golf course, a miniature golf course you might say, had water waves going across it, they had bridges arched over it and graveled walks going around the stations one to eight and they – it was beautiful, it was mowed with lawnmowers and the shells and all the clippages that was broken was picked up by a caretaker. It must have been an expensive club.

BB: Yes.

AW: When I came back we bidded this club out. Not with all the fancy things but along that same line and Herb White was the one that donated the trap to the Diboll Skeet Club. And we laid the, we went over and we measured and laid out the area, the directions for the stations and the locations of the shooting stations and started the Skeet Club that year. After this Skeet Club phased out the equipment was given, was moved to Lufkin and that is the equipment that was at Diboll that is now used by the Lufkin Skeet Club, or was.

BB: How long did it last?

AW: I don't know. I guess we had it several years though, I don't know just exactly how long.

BB: Just gradually phased out?

AW: Gradually phased out.

BB: How many members did you have?

AW: I really never did count them but there were, I guess, actually all the old hunters that attended the old North Cedar Hunting Club belonged to it.

BB: North Cedar Hunting Club?

AW: Most of the supervisors of all the companies belonged to it.

BB: Was it open to just everybody that wanted to or was it kind of exclusive?

AW: No, it was open to the employees of the industries here in town – I don't think there were dues that we paid to it, we just kept it up.

BB: Everybody just, you said something about North Cedar Hunting Club, where is that, I haven't heard of that one.

AW: Well that was the first club that I belonged to in 1939. In 1939 I belonged to North Cedar and then we belonged to a club down near Renfro, they took that club and used it for somebody else and they gave us the Renfro Club, the company, and then they closed the Renfro Club and gave us the old River Club. I belonged to all of them until the time I quit hunting.

BB: I am trying to think, what is the name of that one that you hear so much of now, Boggy Slough, that's it.

AW: Boggy Slough, that is for the officials of the Company.

BB: Okay, so the plant superintendents didn't belong to it?

AW: Usually not, of course, the officials of the company did, usually the mill superintendents attended it. The big thing was for the party for the company officials, their customers, etc. That was Boggy Slough and it was used until it burned down.

BB: Right – okay, did you belong to any other service clubs here in town? Were there any when you moved here like probably like the Pilot Cub, Lions Club – I know you didn't belong to the Pilot Club, Lions Club or Rotary Club?

AW: No. Glad you asked that, we will put that on tape. In 1940 Jim Fuller was the Sunday School Superintendent of the Methodist Church and I don't know for how long, he was there when I came here and, of course, he was in charge of the men's department in the main store under Mr. Drew or else he was connected with the drugstore, I don't know which.

BB: Did you say Mr. Fuller?

AW: Jim Fuller.

BB: Okay, is his wife Mrs. Marion Fuller?

AW: Ma'am?

BB: Marion Fuller, is that his wife?

AW: Yes.

BB: Okay, I know them, yes.

AW: Agee was the druggist, I thought Jim worked in the drugstore, I guess –

BB: No, he worked in the commissary.

AW: He was in charge of the men's clothes, just as sure as the world and he was Cub Master and the church sponsored the cub scout troop at that time, in 1940 when I came here, in 1939, I take that back in 1940 he talked me into being Assistant Cub Master, in other words, to help him with that and I started it and registered them in the boy scouts in 1940. I believe it was in February, 1940, and I stayed with them until 1954. I had a boy, Hugh, was 11 years old and he was still in the cub scouts at that time. You had to be 12

to be a boy scout at that time, so he was in the cub scouts for that year and then he went into boy scouts. Then shortly after the 1940, I guess it was sometime in the early '40s there was a Mr. Jackson was the man in charge of all the company houses here and he was the foreman, the superintendent of housing and kept them in repair and built new houses like he built this house, he and I, his son, Welby Jackson, haven't seen him for years, but he and my oldest son Hugh were in the scouts and Shirley Daniel who ran the picture show, the Timberland theater, he ran the picture show and the Tonk and, of course, he was busy, he was quite a man. This was the favorite hangout for all young people and he kept a nice place. He was pretty busy and he was Scout Master, so apparently he didn't have anybody to help him and he just ran it by himself. One day Mr. Jackson said, we were talking about the boy scouts, and Shirley, and we said, "Well, this was scout night and let's go visit the scouts and see what our boys are doing," and we went to the troop meeting and there was no Scout Master, he had to go to Houston to get a reel for the show or something and the boys were rough housing it down there.

BB: Oh, they were just down there by themselves?

AW: With no one to look after them.

BB: Oh no.

AW: So we decided that wasn't a very good thing to do so we talked to Shirley about it and he said he had been doing it all by himself; he said none of the parents seemed to be interested in scout work and so Welby said, "If you will help Shirley and look after the boys when he can't do it I will be on the troop committee," and so that is where we started in with the boy scouts troop. I was supervisor at that time so that is how I got started in boy scouts.

BB: Boy scouts.

AW: And I actually went to school to learn cub scouting in Lufkin and took all the course that I could take and studied all the books I could take, I even went to, even went to the meetings with my leg in a splint, to learn about it. It finally developed that Shirley just dropped out of the picture and I had to take over.

BB: And then you had them?

AW: So I had a job for fourteen years, you might say. I was called Mr. Scouter.

BB: How many boys did you have, how many troops?

AW: Just the one troop.

BB: One troop.

AW: And then, of course, the scout house was built and one thing or another.

BB: Tell me about it.

AW: The log house.

BB: Yes.

AW: Well, that was built after I was out of scout master any more. Mr. Henry Temple took pity on me, I guess, and he decided that he would hire a professional scouter.

BB: You are kidding?

AW: And he had a professional scouter come in.

BB: You are kidding?

AW: And we had a man come in, his name was Weber, the same as ours.

BB: Same – that was a freeker, huh?

AW: I don't know if he was any relation or not but he came in and was in charge of the boy scouts, the girl scouts and the cub scouts.

BB: And it was during that time that they built?

AW: During that time they built this log cabin down there.

BB: Are you talking about middle '50s?

AW: We went around and took up collections from people to help pay for the deposit.

BB: So then?

AW: So that was a community project, it really, you might say it started with the Booster Club because that is when the town people started taking an interest in the program.

BB: Was that the middle '50s, early '60s?

AW: Oh, that was in the, yes that was in the '50s early '50s, I guess.

BB: Did the company match any funds?

AW: Apparently they paid a big hunk of the money that was in there, I just don't know how much we did raise; I wasn't on the committee that kept track of it but the company always were, the fact is, Henry was, when I was in boy scouts, scout master, he let us have equipment, he took some old fire hose reels and let us make carts to carry out

camping equipment on and he bought four tents for us and the company donated them to us, so we had tents to go on.

BB: To go camping and sort of thing? Would you camp out in that area or would you go off?

AW: We used to. Oh we would go wherever we could pull it by hand, around locally.

BB: Oh, that sounds neat

Mrs. Weber (hereafter NW): Stay out of that.

AW: On the scouting, all right.

BB: Okay now, tell me about the Lions Club.

AW: Okay, Lions Club, I did belong to the Lions Club. I got in 1940 into the clubs and at the same time in 1942 and '43, oh, wait a minute, before that.

BB: It has got '43 and '44 you were president of the Lions Club.

AW: I was President of the Lions Club; I was a charter member in '39 of the Lions Club.

BB: Oh, it began in '39 and you were a charter member?

AW: That is right. And in '43 and '44 I was a president and in '44 and '45 I was the Deputy District Governor of 2S1.

BB: Now that is over a whole area, I don't think I know...

AW: Yes, we had sixteen clubs at that time and that was during the war years and Calvin Lawrence was from the Southern Pine was a member of the Gasoline Rationing Board from Diboll and a Lufkin Lion – people that were members of the Gasoline Rationing Board were members of the Lions Club and so they were very liberal with gas to go visit the various Lions Club and Jimbo [Woolridge].

BB: Clubs, uh huh.

AW: Woolridge was a District Governor at Anahuac and they had a district, a deputy district governor, two of them, one in Port Arthur and one in Mount Belleview and they couldn't get gas to go visit.

BB: The other clubs?

AW: And they wouldn't allow the Lions Club gas, but up here they did and so I had the privilege of installing officers.

BB: All over the place, huh?

AW: Well, I reserved Lufkin for Jimbo Woolridge, I had made him come up on that but installed Lions Club in Nacogdoches, Wells, oh, not Wells, but Alto, Livingston, different, all around in this area, in this part of the country over at – I don't know now, some place over there, several places I guess installed them in about eight or nine different clubs, the officers.

BB: Did you have a large club to start with, since you were there right at first, a large club or was it just – pretty.

AW: We had, yes; we had a pretty good club, yes, a good size club.

BB: And it has always been in continuous?

AW: Yes, it always has been.

BB: Since then?

AW: It apparently, it started out and then the Booster Club branched off from it.

BB: Oh.

AW: They, like anything else, there were certain groups that didn't think you were doing enough so they wanted to form, they first started it in Pineland. Pineland is the one that George Smith, the treasurer for Southern Pine was in Pineland, he came over to Diboll, I believe, a year or two before we came, before I came here, and he had belonged to the Lions Club over there and he was interested in getting it started over there and the Lufkin Lions Club sponsored the Diboll club and formed it in 1940, in 1939 and then whenever the boosters, some of them from Pineland dropped out of the Lions Club and they gave their charter up, they kind of folded up, and started what they called a Booster Club. They started that in Diboll or in Pineland and the next year they started the Booster Club in Diboll, and the next year they started it in Diboll.

BB: In Diboll and that was in the '50s, wasn't it? But the Lions Club isn't just totally this community, it is more of, I mean they do other things besides just community projects, don't they do things to benefit...

AW: Actually the Lions Club's primary purpose is to take care of the eyesight of the youth.

BB: Right, that is what I figured, so they really wanted a club that dealt specifically with...

AW: They wanted a club to be more or less like a serving club but was a community affair like a Chamber of Commerce.

BB: Sort of thing.

AW: So that is really taking the place of the Chamber of Commerce.

BB: Of course, we haven't had that here. Okay, were there any others? Let's see, there is the Lions Club and there is a Rotary Club, too, but you weren't?

AW: No, I never belonged to the Rotary Club, I never attended the Booster Club.

BB: Oh.

AW: In fact I didn't, I really didn't attend the Lions Club after serving as Deputy District Governor, around about that time I was taken up doing so much work; my work was kind of long and trying, too, and in all, it got me so much work.

BB: Got to be too much?

AW: A little to much for me, for health reasons I had to drop out of things and I figured that I always, one of the things that I stressed was that if you couldn't do something for your organization you had better get out of it and not be just a dead timber.

BB: Yes, that is true, I can kind of go along with that. Okay, I want to go back and ask you about when the City of Diboll was first incorporated.

AW: All right, in.

BB: Tell me what you know about it.

AW: In 1939 or '40 the, I think Mr. Temple, Mr. Henry Temple asked Temple White to have employees select somebody from our organization to represent them on the council because they were incorporating the city and they did the same time, they elected Calvin Lawrence as the councilman from Southern Pine, they elected me as the councilman from Temple White; each supervisor asked his group to vote and select a person and they selected me and I served.

BB: So they actually had an election?

AW: Yes, each group selected someone and they all picked me to represent them on that committee.

BB: Okay, did everybody vote like the workers voted and you had a ballot?

AW: As a small group they voted amongst themselves.

BB: But it was more of a voice vote rather than ballot?

AW: Yes, and they did the same thing for Mr. Leesley at the Box Factory. So Mr. Leesley, myself and Calvin Lawrence were councilmen and Mr. Henry Temple was elected mayor from Southern Pine and Rhoda Faye Chandler was selected as the secretary to the mayor. We served I think, for about two years and then disbanded.

BB: Was there any reason, what were the reasons for this?

AW: It was for tax purposes and at that time, Mr. Henry Temple told us that at one time, I believe it was a year or two, it could have been '37 or '38 that they had been probably '37, maybe '36, somewhere between '36 and '38 they had been incorporated for one year and then dropped it. I don't know who served on it or if anybody served on it.

BB: I have heard that Mr. Henry Temple was mayor of that very first time.

AW: He was mayor the first time and he was mayor the second time.

BB: Mayor of the second time, did you all actually meet?

AW: We met once a month.

BB: Oh, you really did meet?

AW: We met at 5 o'clock, sometimes about 4:30, we would go down to the office. Rhoda Faye sat in and took notes of our meetings; we brought up and discussed problems mainly about health problems, problems concerning the people in the community, people that needed help and things of that nature.

BB: Did you all ever try to do any civic improvements, that sort of thing?

AW: Everything was handled, it was all company, they furnished everything.

BB: It was all the company's?

AW: There were no, actually it was company run but in order to meet the requirements we had our regular meetings, the company said they would do this or do that, in other words if we did.

BB: You all could make recommendations, in other words.

AW: We could make recommendations.

BB: And then the company would either say yes or no?

AW: Either do it or not do it and they did generally do it. We were very careful not to recommend too much.

BB: I can see that. Okay, well, that would be interesting, I could go back and ask Miss Chandler, wonder if there would be any records, any minutes left?

AW: They would probably be in Mr. Temple's personal files.

BB: Oh, we could look. Were any taxes taken up or collected since you were incorporated, was there a tax roll?

AW: No, no.

BB: Nothing like that, so it was all just, so this was for two years. Were you re-elected after a year?

AW: No, we just served until further notice.

BB: Well, what did Mr. Temple – just come in one day and say, well, we don't need to be a town any more or what? How was that handled?

AW: One meeting he said that the company attorney had recommended that we disorganize, drop our charter.

BB: Incorporation?

AW: Drop our charter and we did.

BB: The town people didn't have to vote on it or anything like that and they didn't vote really to incorporate?

AW: No, they didn't vote to incorporate, not as a group.

BB: That is interesting, so you met. Did you say once a week or once a month, once a month for two years?

AW: I forgot what day it was on, generally it was along the end of the week, generally about 4:30 or just before 5 o'clock, we met probably for about an hour discussing problems.

BB: Were they mostly, you know, personal problems of people as far as there was a needy family here or that sort of thing? Was that the sort of thing discussed or was?

AW: Of course, they had Rhoda Faye herself and Calvin Lawrence was on a committee to look after the needy people.

BB: In town?

AW: Mrs. Weber, my first wife was on that, too.

BB: That is interesting. Okay.

END OF SIDE ONE

BB: Okay, Mr. Weber I would like to talk about the church now a little while. You belong to the First United Methodist Church and you joined back in 1939 when you came to Diboll?

AW: Yes, I moved my membership from Bogalusa in '39.

BB: How large a church was it back then? I know, I have got the membership roll from 1940 and it said you had like 300 members at that time. How many were active as far as, what was your average Sunday attendance and that sort of thing?

AW: About 90.

BB: Not much more, just about now, just about the same.

AW: Just about the same.

BB: From what I understand, I haven't been a Methodist that long, just about 7 or 8 years, and you said you were on the Board of Stewards. Okay, at that time or a couple of years after you came.

AW: Yes, I was on the Board of Stewards. Well, I guess it was about 1940 that they asked me to serve on it and Mr. Strauss was the treasurer of course he died, but you know, actually Board of Stewards was a financial drive of it. I started serving, I guess in '39.

BB: They put you right to work just as soon as you came.

AW: Oh, yes, they wanted me to help them make up their deficit.

BB: Oh me.

AW: That was the main thing.

BB: Well, did they have as many conference askings and that sort of thing, is that why you...

AW: Oh yes, it was standard, set up in the discipline; talking about the discipline, so many of the church members don't have a discipline, they don't read it if they do have it.

BB: No, I don't.

AW: And one of the things that I have noticed.

BB: Do you want me to...

AW: I don't touch it.

BB: No, I mean did you want to see something in – oh...

AW: No, I don't need it.

BB: Okay.

AW: No, I was going to reach for it, just out of habit. I don't need it because there is nothing in there that I would need. But it started off, of course; I joined in Louisiana, it is about the same as it is here, of course, our preacher over there wore, he wore tails and striped pants.

BB: In tails to preach in and not in a robe?

AW: No, not in a robe.

BB: Did he have a top hat, too?

AW: I think so.

BB: Now that was in Louisiana, not here. I can't see that here.

AW: Brother McRay [?] used to step outside the pulpit and kick his feet.

BB: Oh no, did they use the same call system as they do now, where the conference places the preacher or did you all, okay same way, same as now.

AW: Same as now, not much change there. What I was going to say is not many people have it and one of the big things is I have been a church member for all this time and I don't go to Sunday school – never have. Well, I take that back, I used to go every once in a while and for some reason, I don't know why, I didn't go to Sunday school when I was in Bogalusa. The Sunday school superintendent lived right next door to me but I never went to Sunday school since I was a kid. I guess I used to never miss, I had 100% attendance for four years when I lived in town but then when I lived in the country I didn't have any church to go to, anyway I was formerly a Presbyterian.

BB: Yes.

AW: And I converted to and joined a Methodist church but over there. But what I was saying is people don't really understand just what is required of them as a member, that is one of the big faults that I find and I find it to be so true that even some of our board members didn't know, you know, like I said, it just started off. Well, we have our meeting and we owe so much money and how are we going to get it, all this and that and we went through the regular procedure but still in all it wasn't like it is now, going by the Robert Rules, and orders and stuff like that but anyway I made a point to buy a discipline for the church library and I don't know whether it was in the library or whether they have a library any more or not, they used to have it in one of the Sunday school rooms upstairs.

BB: No, there is just – you know.

AW: I know.

BB: The little office where the book shelf is upstairs.

AW: Do they have any books in it?

BB: Yes, there are some books but I don't know if that is there, that old.

AW: I could buy a discipline, no, I bought it. I bought the last two that I know of, maybe three. They are supposed to be in there but I guess, no I guess I bought it for the board chairman, I believe.

BB: Oh, so he would know what he was supposed to be doing?

AW: But you know, after I joined the United Church, it changed up so much.

BB: Yes, I was going to ask you about changes?

AW: Those changes were quite severe.

BB: What did you notice on the local level?

AW: It took the control of the church out of the hands of the Board of Stewards and put it in the presiding preachers.

BB: Oh, really?

AW: Oh yes, the preacher is responsible for the activities of that church, he is ex-officio member of every committee and it is up to him to see that the committee functions and that is one reason and the way it started was – I didn't go to Sunday school as I said, and every time I went to Sunday school here they would say they would want me to teach Sunday school. They would say you are capable of going and teaching Sunday school. We need a teacher and we wish you would teach and I got tired of being asked and have to refuse so I just quit and it just seemed like every time I would go they would almost

insist that I take it and it would make me feel that I was shirking my duties if I didn't do it and I was loaded up with community work and my work, boy scout work, Lions Club work.

BB: Yes, and too many in the church.

AW: I come home from work and work on my work for the plant until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, I was worn out. Well, anyway I was, I don't know how long I was chairman of the board of stewards but I wish I did because I just recall – back in about that time is when I commenced to get overloaded and I really don't know the exact dates but I do know that I was chairman of the board when Rev. Morman was here.

BB: Now is this kind of like our finance committee is now, the Board of Stewards?

AW: Yes, it is just like it is now.

BB: It is comparable?

AW: It is the, what you call the official meeting – council.

BB: Right, okay. Oh, it's kind of like our administrative board, which is...

AW: Administrative board used to be the board of stewards.

BB: Everybody – oh – Okay – so there.

AW: Administrative board.

BB: I always called the board of stewards.

AW: Called it the board of Stewards.

BB: So you were chairman of it?

AW: I was chairman of that.

BB: Okay and then the board of trustees.

AW: That consisted of three members, the trustees was in charge of the church property except they saw that the church and then they had a parsonage committee, they had a church committee, the church committee, the parsonage.

BB: And it answered to them, to those three?

AW: Oh yes.

BB: Answered to them?

AW: Yes, and they, of course, that is all under the direction of the preacher and that was kind of hard to take for some of our members, too.

BB: Yes, because they were used to the preacher just didn't have that much control in the church up until then?

AW: That is right, that is right. Yes, they felt that the people that are putting up the money and paying the preachers salary should have the say so, that was the feeling that they had, I guess, but during the years that I told that they, they told me as they got scattered away to two different factions, they wanted me to kind of....

BB: Mediate.

AW: And to keep things going together smoothly and don't let it get out, each one get out of control. Well, about that time, if you can find out from your conference here meeting with other people that you have taken from this church when they listed the pastors, when Brother Mormon was here was when I was chairman of the board.

BB: Okay, I will look that up because I have that list at home.

AW: Okay, that is that year that I know, maybe one or two before that but anyway, I was there that year and the reason that I said that, at that time in the Sunday school which I didn't attend but I understood there was two or three radicals, you might say, they were members, they were members of the church and had come into the church and joined the church but they were not Methodist, one in particular, I have forgotten his name but he was a Presbyterian, like I said I was a Presbyterian once, too, and I know that.

BB: They are a lot similar but there are a few things different?

AW: They are similar but they are different.

BB: Right, just like all the protestant churches.

AW: And, yes, all the protestant churches have a little difference, that's all they tried to bring things up and they caused a little friction and I got kind of tired of that so I said, well, I am going to appoint a committee of three and I will be chairman of that committee and we will meet once a week, or more as it requires, and we will look at the discipline to see what the church rules are. So I set the committee up and two of those people were the ones that was causing a little friction.

BB: Problems.

AW: Little problems, they were progressors but nothing real radical but it was just enough.

BB: To cause problems?

AW: To cause a little problem here and there. The preacher wasn't doing that, this man wasn't doing that, that committee wasn't doing that, just a little problem, who had whose say.

BB: Yes.

AW: So I appointed a committee and we met. And we met from three to four hours once a week on Thursday night, some night.

BB: Yes?

AW: I think it was Thursday night and we would meet at 7 o'clock to 10 or 10:30. Whenever we got through and sometimes we would meet more often, we would meet twice a week, but we met and I had the preacher, Brother Morman sit in with us.

BB: You just went through the whole book?

AW: I asked him to sit in with us because a lot of it was on criticism of the preacher and I didn't want to criticize him behind his back and I didn't want him to criticize and so we had the meetings and Brother Morman sat in on the meetings with us, he didn't have much to say but he just sat there and was present at the meetings and I didn't have too much to say but I would go down there to the meetings; that was what we were supposed to do and I would say this is it and we are going to open up the discipline and read it.

BB: And look it up.

AW: And look it up. We would bring up a subject and what should we do? Look in the discipline and I got started getting the discipline and giving it to the church or the board, or the library and one year.

BB: It is a good idea.

AW: One year I bought two and gave one to the board. Yes, to the board and one to the library for members to look up what they wanted to but I haven't lately.

BB: It sounds like a good idea.

AW: I learned from Rev. Williams in Springhill, Louisiana, discussing when the first year that they changed the discipline and I had quite a discussion one Saturday afternoon, in fact, I spent all afternoon with him and discussing what they were doing at this and he appointed a committee to function and got them to working and he said there were a lot of things that they didn't agree on and I believe brother, the present preacher.

BB: Brother Boyett.

AW: Boyett, I think he agrees too, that there's lots of things in it that he wasn't brought up that way but maybe he doesn't see eye to eye but that is what the church rules are and that is what he does.

BB: Right.

AW: That is what the church membership should do.

BB: That is what you should do or else find another church.

AW: Or find another church or change the rules.

BB: Right.

AW: Anyway, I learned a lot about what they should do and what they shouldn't do. But in this committee meeting while I was there we had that all year and then I think that was the year that I had to give, no then I changed that committee and took over Lon Smith's job.

BB: Oh, the treasurer?

AW: He was the treasurer and I went into the treasury.

BB: During this time now, did they always share preachers with Ryan's Chapel?

AW: Yes.

BB: Okay, all during this whole time up until just recently?

AW: Just recently.

BB: Okay, did it always work out, seem to work out real well as far.

AW: Always seemed to work out pretty good.

BB: Yes, okay.

AW: I stayed with the, when I – I was – as I told you, I was pretty well worked out in 1955, my heart condition developed and I just dropped everything, I didn't go to church and we had two preachers that were here that I never heard them preach a sermon, that young preacher, I can't tell you now but they would come see me, I couldn't, I just couldn't stand to go to church, I wasn't able to but I didn't miss a day at work I was able.

BB: Just not able to do all of it.

AW: Doctor didn't take me off of work, said to stay with it and I did.

BB: Yes, but problems with the other things?

AW: I wasn't able to do anything else so I didn't. On weekends I just had to rest.

BB: Well, I know your first wife was a real worker in the church because I did the history of the UMW and her name is there just constantly.

AW: Yes, you noticed she has got a pew, practically all but two or three in the choir.

BB: Yes, you are right.

AW: She was a good worker, we did church work in our time.

BB: During the building program, you know how it is.

AW: You know what.

BB: You know how it is, a lot of time a building program seems to cause more problems, does it seem like the church did they weather the big one pretty well?

AW: They had no problems when they finally decided to go ahead with the church, there were some that didn't come to church, never did come to church after they started building but I think they got over it. I think eventually.

BB: Probably were glad that they had the new sanctuary?

AW: I think everybody is happy. I think it did the church good to have it and it made the changes, of course, everything changes and you just have to live with it, changes come.

BB: Change with it.

AW: Change with it.

BB: Yes. Well, right now, you know, they are talking about doing some more building, we have outgrown.

AW: I don't know what they are talking about because I don't, we haven't been to church.

BB: It is not discussed in church anyway, it is discussed at all the meetings, you know, but they are wanting to put in a new fellowship hall and pastor's study and that sort of thing and we sure need it. We need a nursery, too.

NW: Do we know who we are going to have?

BB: For next time? No, we won't know for a while.

NW: Next year, I thought he was taking a leave. Bro. Boyett was just taking a leave, thought maybe he was just taking a leave of absence.

BB: I think he is.

NW: He is going to school?

BB: He is taking a year's leave from the ministry.

NW: I thought maybe he was coming back.

AW: Is he taking a Sabbatical leave?

BB: Yes, a Sabbatical leave, yes to go back but I don't know what he will do after that whether, you know, he...

END OF INTERVIEW